(b) whether a corporal of Air Force was found with important defence papers of strategic importance near China border and there was massive leakage of information in the Navy;

(c) the details of (a) and (b);

(d) whether any special instructions have been issued to Armed Forces following these incidents, by MoD; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) There is no indication of increase in acts of espionage and passing of defence classified papers by defence personnel. However, a retired Air force Sergeant was apprehended for indulging in espionage activities, recently. A case of unauthorised access to information was also reported from the Navy. Instructions already exist on security of information, personnel and material and these are modified and reiterated from time to time.

Commissioning of INS Kadamba

3014. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that INS Kadamba has been commissioned recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what was the original cost of INS Kadamba when it was first conceptualised in 1986; and

(d) what are the reasons for delay in completing this project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) INS Kadamba, which is the Depot ship of the new Naval Base at Karwar was commissioned on 31st May 2005.

(c) The original cost of the Karwar Naval Base Project, which included INS Kadamba, was Rs. 350 crores when it was first conceptualized in 1986.

(d) As per the revised Government sanction, Phase-I of the Project is scheduled for completion by December 2005.

Salary of IAF pilots

3015.SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big gap between the salary of Indian Air Force(IAF) pilots and experienced pilots in commercial airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sanctioned strength of pilots in IAF and the present number of pilots with the IAF;

(d) whether Government have taken any measures to raise the salary and other perquisites of IAF pilots so that they are not lured by commercial airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The job profile and job requirements of the pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the pilots in commercial airlines are different and not comparable. The sanctioned strength of pilots in the IAF is 3263 and the actual strength is 2922 (as on 1-8-2005). The improvement in the job profile of the IAF pilots is a continuous phenomenon keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

Siphoning of diesel meant for army

3016. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a truck load of diesel meant for the Army was siphoned-off and replaced with water recently;

(b) if so, the details, with details of the inquiry, if any, constituted to inquire into the matter;

(c) whether there is any mechanism in place for monitoring the quality and quantity of Army supplies, across all categories, to ensure that only appropriate type of supplies reach the Army and its personnel;